

161835

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

WILLIAM J. SCOTT
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 21, 1980

TO Reed W. Neuman
FROM Steve A. Woods
SUBJECT Dead Creek - Cahokia, Illinois

MEETING AND INTERVIEW
WITH CLAUDE KILZER
October 7, 1980
1:50 P.M.

Claude Kilzer
2019 N. 62nd Street
East St. Louis, IL

(618) 875-8685
Washington Park Area

I met mr. Kilzer at the Clark Gas Station across from the Venture Store about 1/4 mile off I-55 on Route 111, East of St. Louis at 1:50 p.m.

Claude worked for Waggoner 16 years and 9 months. It was his job to clean out the tanks, check and fix the tires, and change the oil. He would change oil usually on Saturday. During the week he would flush out the tankers and fix tires when they needed it.

There were 2 to 3 men on a shift in the shop: tire man, tank cleaner and mechanic. The overseer acted as the dispatcher when Harold Waggoner was not there himself. Claude's memory was very poor and he could only remember two names, Mr. Connie Oberts who worked there after 1965 for a few years and a man named Ray . . . (something) who worked for Waggoner two separate periods. The dispatcher would write up the orders for jobs that had to be done, like which trucks, and what chemicals had been in them, had to be cleaned or flushed out.

From 1971 to 1974 they used a work sheet, which he said they filled out when they did a job but he thought it was mainly for time-keeping purposes. They were turned in to the office and he did not know what happened to them after that.

009689

The tankers were driven around to the rear of the building bed, to a rocky area called the steam rack. At the edge of the steam rack was a ditch which went to the pit or pond, as he described it. He said the trucks were never backed up to the ditch (Dead Creek) and flushed out. The truck driver only drove the truck to the shop and then they went home or wherever. Claude would then put on his rubber gloves, rubber boots and goggles and climb inside with hot soapy water and steam clean the tank by hand. Sometimes he would use a fan and hand towels to dry it. Tanks with certain chemicals were cleaned with cold water-they were sulfuric acid and muriatic acid. Steam was not used to clean them. These chemicals plus oleum, chlorosulfonic acid, and phostri were not cleaned unless sediments built up. Plastizier, phenol, caustic cleaner, oil additives, phosphoric acid and wood-tox were cleaned out every other load. The tanks had to be cleaned also whenever a different chemical was to be hauled. Some chemicals such as muriatic acid and oleum were carried in rubber lined black iron tankers. The rest were carried in stainless steel. This is a list of all the chemicals Claude Kilzer could remember working with. He had a vague idea of what some of them were used for:

1. Sulfuric Acid - *what, this stuff??*
2. Oleum - Used in soaps and transported for Proctor and Gamble
3. Tallow - A fatty acid
4. Muriatic Acid - A metal cleaner
5. Chlorosulfonic Acid -
6. Plastisizer -
7. Phenol -
8. Caustic Metal Cleaner -
9. Oil Additives -
10. Phosphoric Acid - Food grade and Fertilizers
11. Phostri - Only hauled in the last 3 years before going out of business
12. Wood-Tox -
13. Latex Paint -

In about 1968 a new pit was dug out by Wilbur Waggoner / Excavating (Harold's brother). Claude was not sure about the location of the first pond or pit but he said the one used from 1968 up to 1974, when Waggoner closed, was behind the building. He said it was 20 to 30 feet wide and about 20 feet deep. Claude was guessing at the measurements (or making them up).

He did not say anything about the EPA making Waggoner stop dumping in the Dead Creek. He just said they had always used a pit or pond.

009690

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORANDUMWILLIAM J. SCOTT
ATTORNEY GENERAL

TO Reed W. Neuman
FROM Steve Woods
SUBJECT Cahokia Investigation

October 7, 1980

Telephone Conversation of October 3, 1980

Police Chief Merle J. Justus ³³⁷
Cahokia Police Department (618) ~~887~~-4065
Police Officer for 21 years, 18 of those
years he was Police Chief
Information on employees of Herold Waggoner
and Company

Mr. Justus gave me three names and two addresses with phone numbers:

Dela Schmidt (Secretary)
1156 Price Street
Cahokia, Illinois 62206
(618) 332-3592

She worked for Waggoner for several years. Mr. Justus called her "Waggoners girl" friday. He said if we caught her in the right mood she could be very helpful. She has a reputation for being rough or crusty. Mr. Justus remembered her.

Claude Kilzer
2019 N. 62nd Street
East St. Louis, Illinois 62200
(618) 875-8685

He worked in Wagonners shop. His job was cleaning out the trailers and trucks. He now works for Rogers Cartage Company doing the same type of work. Mr. Justus got Kilzers name from one of his officers.

109800